

17 May 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Director-Management, NFAC

FROM : Acting Coordinator for Academic  
Relations, NFAC

SUBJECT : Memorandum to the Department of State  
Requesting Clearance for External  
Research Project

1. Attached for your review and approval is a memorandum to Ambassador Bowdler in his capacity as Chairman of the Department of State Research Council. That memorandum requests State Department review and clearance of an external research project sponsored by OER that will involve investigations abroad [REDACTED]. We are, as you know, obliged to submit such research proposals to State for approval before contracts are awarded.

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2. I do not know how this responsibility was carried out in the past -- or if it was. I have not been able to find a precedent in any event. I propose that the format of the attached memo suffice henceforth in fulfilling our responsibilities to State. All of the information needed by State (as established in their memorandum of January 16, 1978, Policies and Procedures for Department of State Review and Coordination of Government Sponsored Research on Foreign Affairs) has been included, though without elaboration. I do not believe it is necessary to describe such research proposals in greater detail.

3. Since we will be establishing a precedent in this exercise -- albeit one that we should have set long ago in compliance with Presidential and NSC directives -- I would like to take this opportunity to discuss two problems in how we are currently equipped to handle these affairs.

A. Your October 6, 1977 memo to State appointed [REDACTED] and me as the CIA representatives for coordinating external research with State. This Agency-wide mandate will require us to develop new procedures for monitoring the relevant external research of other directorates and reporting it to

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State. A first essential step in that direction is to review [ ] (copy attached). That reg should be updated to reflect organizational changes and new requirements that have evolved since it was last reviewed in 1969. An important issue in that review will be how DDO external research would be reported. In a separate memo, I will recommend that an Agency working group with representation from each major component and OGC be constituted to review procedures and policies in order to update them.

B. There is considerable confusion about procedures and mechanisms in NFAC for reviewing, coordinating, and approving external research proposals. There was little or nothing about this in the DDI Handbook, and little need for elaborate procedures in the days when only one or two offices sponsored external research in their own special areas of interest. Now of course, all of the production offices have external research programs, some of the NIOs are developing them, and a growing percentage of sponsored research mixes disciplines, methodologies, regions, and patrons. The need for more effective review and coordination of external research has been highlighted recently, moreover, as proposals of shockingly dubious merit have surfaced.

Shortly, I will propose to you in a separate memo that the Academic Relations Staff play a central role in NFAC to review and coordinate external research in the social and behavioral sciences before contracts are awarded. Thus, in the continuing absence of other, formal review mechanisms, CAR would provide the only timely, independent coordination and consultation on external research proposals from throughout NFAC. Following that review, CAR would report its findings, any dissenting views, and recommendations to you (through Admin) for final action. Later, if a formal External Research Review Board is created in NFAC (as seems desirable) CAR would continue to perform the same functions as the Board's staff or secretariat.

4. Actions Recommended:

a) Your approval of the attached memo to State requesting review and clearance.

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b) Your consideration of the problems addressed  
in paragraph three.

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Attachments



APPROVED

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Associate Director-Management/NFAC

5-24-78

Date

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DISAPPROVED:

H 3B

Associate Director Management/NFAC

24 MAY 1978

Date

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